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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Ronald S. Karpf

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EXAMINER

HANNE, SARA M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2179

DATE MAILED: 12/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/911,626	Applicant(s) KARPF, RONALD S.	
	Examiner Sara M. Hanne	Art Unit 2179	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 September 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 10-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 10-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the amendment received on September 15, 2005.

Examiner notes previously cancelled claims 1-9 and the previously presented Claims 10-29 which are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

3. Claims 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Wood, US Patent 5839902.

As in Claim 10, Wood teaches conducting an interview of a respondent, the method comprising presenting an interview question to a respondent ("the device produces a signal that may be a prompt, a statement, or a sound associated with depicted objects.", Col. 1, lines 45-48, Col. 1, lines 60-62), presenting a map using the interview system ("the device depicts a flat map", Col. 1, line 53), and receiving an indication of a location-input from the respondent in response to the presented question ("In response to a selection of a location, the speaker produces an affirmative or negative answer.", Col. 1, lines 63-64 and "touch-sensitive surfaces that send electrical signals to the processor", Col. 2, lines 58-59) and geocoding the location-input received ("When the user selects an indicium 16, the processor 24 compares the geographic

location represented by the indicium 16 to the correct geographic location stored in its memory", Col. 4, lines 3-5).

As in Claim 11, Wood teaches the step of receiving an input point on the map when it is input by the user (See Claim 10 rejection *supra*).

As in Claim 12, Wood teaches the step of receiving being an input region on the map when it is input by the user (See Claim 10 rejection *supra*).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wood, US Patent 5839902, and further in view of Mullet et al., US Patent 5638523.

Wood teaches presenting an interview question to a respondent, presenting a map, and receiving an indication of a location-input from the respondent in response to the presented question. While Wood teaches question presentation and map input in response, they fail to show the receiving, as the input region, a proximate area having a circular shape surrounding a point on the map presented as recited in Claim 13. In the same field of the invention, Mullet et al. teaches an interactive map similar to that of Wood. In addition, Mullet et al. further teaches receiving, as the input region, a proximate area having a circular shape surrounding a point on the map presented (Fig. 3A, Ref. 15 and Col. 4, lines 46-50). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill

in the art, having the teachings of Wood and Mullet et al. before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the presentation of a question and map input response in reply to the question taught by Wood to include the circular selection of a input region of Mullet et al., in order to obtain an approximate input through circular selection. One would have been motivated to make such a combination because a way to select a region of area on a map within a certain radius of a particular point would have been obtained, as taught by Mullet et al.

6. Claims 14-25 and 27-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wood, US Patent 5839902, and further in view of William Drummond's, "Address Matching, GIS Technology for Mapping Human Activity Patterns" in the Journal of the American Planning Association, hereinafter referred to as Drummond.

As in Claims 14 and 17, Wood teaches an article of manufacture with a machine-readable storage medium with machine-executable control program steps including issuing one of a series of interview questions ("the device produces a signal that may be a prompt, a statement, or a sound associated with depicted objects.", Col. 1, lines 45-48, also Col. 1, lines 60-62), in response to a given interview question of the series of interview questions receiving a location response ("touch-sensitive surfaces that send electrical signals to the processor", Col. 2, lines 58-59), determining the validity of the location response received ("user to respond to a prompt by activating an appropriate selector, upon which the device produces a signal depending on the validity of the user's response", Col. 1, lines 63-64), if the location response is invalid, reissuing the

given question and repeating the process ("If the selection is incorrect, the speaker produces a statement ... and requests the user to select the correct location.", Col. 1, line 66 – Col. 2, line 2) and geocoding the location-input received ("When the user selects an indicium 16, the processor 24 compares the geographic location represented by the indicium 16 to the correct geographic location stored in its memory", Col. 4, lines 3-5). While Wood teaches map input in response to a presented question, they fail to show storing the geocoded location as recited in the claims. In the same field of the invention, Drummond teaches a geocoding system similar to that of Wood. In addition, Drummond further teaches storing the geocoded location (Page 2, line 26 et seq.). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Wood and Drummond before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the presentation or question information and map input response taught by Wood to include the storing of the geocoded location of Drummond, in order to obtain a way to save geocoded user input location. One would have been motivated to make such a combination because input method that can be later accessed would have been obtained, as taught by Drummond.

As in Claim 18, Wood teaches providing a map display used to facilitate the graphical input response to the given question (Fig. 3, ref. 14 and Claim 17 rejection *supra*).

As in Claim 19, Wood teaches that if the location response is determined to be valid, a subsequent question is asked (Col. 4, line 64 – Col. 5, line 5), location response received, and validity tested as in Claim 17 (See Claim 17 rejection *supra*).

As in Claims 15, 16 and 20, Wood teaches presenting an interview question to a respondent, presenting a map, and receiving an indication of a location-input from the respondent in response to the presented question and validating the location and geocoding the location-input received as seen in Claims 10 and 17 rejections *supra*. While Wood teaches map input in response to a presented question, they fail to show a latitude/longitude determination and proximate area detection as recited in the claims. In the same field of the invention, Drummond teaches a geocoding system (and storing the geocoded location as seen in Claims 10 and 17 rejection *supra*), similar to that of Wood. In addition, Drummond further teaches latitude and longitude of the location-input (as seen in Figure 2, latitude and longitude are determined after matching) as in Claim 15, proximate area based on the indication of the location-input received ("A partial match can result when no perfect match is available", Page 2, line 5, paragraph 6) as in Claims 16 and 20. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Wood and Drummond before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the presentation or question information and map input response taught by Wood to include the latitude/longitude determination and proximate area detection of Drummond, in order to obtain a defined location of an area input by the user. One would have been motivated to make such a combination because a cooperative geocoding system for used by the US Census Bureau would have been obtained, as taught by Drummond (page 1, last paragraph et seq.).

As in Claim 21-23, Wood teaches a system comprising a display of questions to a respondent, a device for graphical input by a respondent of an input location entered

through graphical indications on a map display (See Claim 17 rejection *supra*), and a geocoding processor programmed to perform geocoding on the input location by the input device (See Claim 14 rejection *supra*). While Wood teaches map input in response to a presented question, they fail to show a textual input device where an alphanumeric text is entered as an input location through a textbox as recited in the claims. In the same field of the invention, Drummond teaches a geocoding system similar to that of Wood. In addition, Drummond further teaches an alphanumeric address (Fig. 1, Target database records) and a textual and graphical input of an initial location response (Page 4, paragraph 4). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Wood and Drummond before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the presentation or question information and map input response taught by Wood to include the alphanumeric textual input location information of Drummond, in order to obtain a textual input for the location information to be input to the system. One would have been motivated to make such a combination because an alternative approach to entering desired location data if the user is unaware of the geographic location but knows the approximate address would have been obtained, as taught by Drummond.

As in Claim 24, Wood teaches the geocoding processor performs geocoding on the input location immediately after entry by said input device ("When the user selects an indicium 16, the processor 24 compares the geographic location represented by the indicium 16 to the correct geographic location stored in its memory", Col. 4, lines 3-5).

As in Claim 25, Wood teaches the input device identifies an exact location on the map provided on said map display when the respondent inputs a location ("In response to a selection of a location, the speaker produces an affirmative or negative answer.", Col. 1, lines 63-64 and "touch-sensitive surfaces that send electrical signals to the processor", Col. 2, lines 58-59).

As in Claim 27, Wood teaches the graphical input to be a census tract (Col. 3, lines 12-16).

As in Claim 28, Wood teaches the geocoding processor programmed to provide a unique point specification of a place representative of an input location (Col. 1, line 64 – Col. 2, line 3).

As in Claim 29, Wood teaches the question display and map display are provided on a single computer monitor display (Fig. 1).

7. Claim 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wood, US Patent 5839902 and William Drummond's, "Address Matching, GIS Technology for Mapping Human Activity Patterns" in the Journal of the American Planning Association, hereinafter referred to as Drummond, and further in view of Mullet et al., US Patent 5638523.

Wood and Drummond teach presenting an interview question to a respondent, presenting a map, and receiving an indication of a location-input from the respondent in response to the presented question textually or graphically such that the selected location is geocoded (See Claim 23 rejection *supra*). While Wood and Drummond teaches question presentation and map or text input in response, they fail to show the

highlighting the input region on the map display that identifies an approximate location as the input location as recited in Claim 26. In the same field of the invention, Mullet et al. teaches an interactive location geocoding system similar to that of Wood and Drummond. In addition, Mullet et al. further teaches highlighting, as the input region, a proximate area on the map presented (Fig. 3A, Ref. 15 and Col. 4, lines 46-50). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Wood and Drummond and Mullet et al. before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the presentation of a question and map or textual input response in reply to the question taught by Wood and Drummond to include the highlighting selection of a input region of Mullet et al., in order to obtain an approximate input location device through highlighting. One would have been motivated to make such a combination because a way to visually select a region of area on a map would have been obtained, as taught by Mullet et al.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 10-23 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant's arguments filed September 13, 2005 states that there is a "lack of street addresses in Drummond" (page 13, line 10) which the examiner fails to see.

Conclusion


The prior art made of record on form PTO-892 and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111(c) to consider these references fully when responding to this action. The documents cited therein teach similar mapping input systems and geocoding methods.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sara M. Hanne whose telephone number is (571) 272-4135. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30am-4:00pm, off on alternating Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, WEILUN LO can be reached on (571) 272-4847. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

smh


WEILUN LO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER